

[21 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Sl. No.	Description of goods	Basic duty of customs (before increase)	Basic duty of customs (after increase)
2.	Olive oil other than virgin whether or not refined	35%	40%
3.	Refined vegetable oils (other than coconut oil, RBD palm oil, RBD palm kernel oil and palm stearin) of edible grade in loose or bulk form	25%	35%
4.	All other edible oils whether refined or not (including coconut oil and refined palm oil)	35%	45%
5.	Milk powder	0%	60%
6.	Poultry meat and chicken legs	35%	100%
7.	Spelt	0%	50%
8.	Rice in the husk and husked Brown rice	0%	80%
9.	Semi milled or wholly milled rice whether or not polished	0%	70%
10.	Millet, Jower, Sorghum, Maize	0%	50%
11.	Areca nuts	35%	100%
12.	Apples	35%	50%
13.	Tea	15%	35%
14.	Coffee	15%	35%
15.	Preparations for infant use, put up for retail sale	15%	35%

**Protecting traditional system and biodiverse materials**

2973. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any attempt has been made to protect traditional system and biodiverse materials especially in the field of medicine;

(b) whether it is a fact that on the issue of intellectual property rights fresh

obligations are sought to be imposed under the TRIPS agreement especially in the area of biotechnology and biodiverse materials; and

(c) if answer to part (b) be in the affirmative then what steps Government are taking to make a combined campaign alongwith other developing and biodiverse materials producing countries?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN):** (a) A task force, constituted to work out the modalities to document the traditional knowledge of Ayurveda in the form of a Traditional Knowledge Digital Library in order to prevent patenting of traditional knowledge, has submitted its report. Its implementation is under consideration of the Government.

The Government has introduced the Biological Diversity Bill, 2000 in the Lok Sabha on 15 May, 2000. The broad objectives of this legislation are conservation and sustainable utilisation of biodiversity and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of biological resources and knowledge.

In order to protect bio-resources, the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999 contains provisions for mandatory disclosure of source and geographical origin of the biological material used in the invention while applying for patents in India. Provisions have also been incorporated to include the non-disclosure or wrongful disclosure of the same as grounds for opposition and for revocation of the patent, if granted. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 8, 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

In order to protect traditional knowledge from being patented, provisions have been incorporated in the Patents (Second Amendment) Bill, 1999, to include anticipation of invention by available local knowledge, including oral knowledge, as one of the grounds for opposition as also for revocation of patent. Provisions in this regard are contained in clauses 17 and 28 of the said Bill.

(b) There has been no amendment to the TRIPs Agreement since it was adopted in 1994 as a part of the Uruguay Round Agreement.

(c) Does not arise.

### **Liberalisation of FDI policy**

2974. **SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO:** Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of decision taken for liberalisation of FDI policy;